Major Planning Guide: Design

SEATTLE CENTRAL COLLEGE
One of the Seattle Colleges

What can I do with a degree in design?	**Related Majors/Programs**
The design field includes a wide range of concentrations and develops a variety of skills that have direct applications in many industries. While all areas of design require creative thinking, some are very artistic, while others are closer to engineering. Students who study graphic design may work in advertising agencies or publishing houses. Interior designers may design residential interiors or commercial spaces. Designers also work to create new products – from automobiles to kitchen gadgets – as well as games, computer applications, and web pages.	Apparel Design Graphic Design Game Design Human-Centered Design Interior Design Industrial Design Visual Media Painting & Drawing Photomedia

Where can I earn a bachelor's degree in design in Washington?

Cornish College of the Arts, DigiPen Institute of Technology, Seattle Pacific University, Washington State University and University of Washington offer undergraduate design programs. You can use the College Navigator search engine found at http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator to find design programs in Washington State or around the country.

How do I prepare to major in design?

Here are a few steps that we recommend you take to make sure that design is the right choice for you. There are many different types of careers in design, and it is important to do some research ahead of time to find the one that best fits your goals. An advisor can help you choose the transfer degree, and what courses you should take while you are here at Seattle Central.

Step One: Research

☐ Those who are undecided about a major/career can make an appointment with our Career Exploration Center in BE 1102E take a career assessment test. This assessment can reveal your interests, values, and skills which then match you up with potential careers and programs that prepare you for specific career paths.

☐ Many university design programs will require a portfolio of previous work as part of the admissions process. Check university requirements and take classes at Seattle Central that can help to develop your portfolio.

☐ Design programs are fairly specialized and are not offered at all schools. Make sure your preferred design program is offered at the universities or colleges you are considering.

☐ Our Transfer Center in NE 1102F can help find universities you are interested in attending and guide you through the application process.

Step Two: Pick a Degree

Students planning to major in design often earn the Associates of Art (AA-DTA) degree. Advisors can help students understand what requirements are necessary for transfer. You may pick up a degree planning worksheet for the AA-DTA (*purple sheet*) in BE 1102 lobby.

Step Three: Make a Long Range Academic Plan

Students planning to major in design at a university usually take general education requirements in addition to creating a portfolio of your previous work before transfer. You should consult with an advisor at Seattle Central to make sure you are well-prepared to enter the major.

What do I need to consider when I look for design programs?

Design school vs. university: Design students need to decide if they plan to attend a school that specializes in design or a traditional university that offers majors in design. Students at a design school will usually spend more of their time in design classes and less time in general education classes. They will be surrounded by other students studying design, and their programs may be more focused on professional training and job placement. Students looking for a more traditional college experience, exposure to a wider variety of students and academic areas, or the opportunity to double-major or minor in a field other than design may be better served by a comprehensive university or a liberal arts college.

Degree – BFA vs. BA/BS: Another thing aspiring design students should consider is whether they would prefer to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) or a more general Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS) in their chosen specialty. The BFA is more commonly offered at design schools, but can be earned at traditional universities as well. It usually requires that a larger percentage of the total credits a student earns be in studio courses. A BA or BS requires fewer credits of studio design courses which may allow a student to double-major or earn a minor in another field.

What are my next steps?

☐ Once you have had the chance to explore the career opportunities in design you might want to schedule an appointment to meet with an advisor to plan out your course of study. You can make an appointment by stopping by the Advising office in BE 1102D or calling us at 206-934-4068. (*If you are an international student, please stop by International Education Programs in BE 1113*).

☐ Attend Transfer Fairs and Career & Networking Fairs hosted by our office throughout the year.

☐ Explore the professional organizations in your area of interest for more information about education and career options.